2537 Regent St., Apt. 202
Berkeley, Calif. 94704
June 16, 1969
Reference: NND

Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff
Director; Diplomatic, Legal, and
Fiscal Records Division
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Mr. Eckhoff:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, and for the accompanying Warren Commission records.

For the record, I hereby request an 8 x 10" glossy print of the original photo of an unidentified man attached to the affidavit of FBI agent Odum, dated July 10, 1964. This request is based on the fact that the published version of this photo (Odum DE 1) is not identical to the exhibit as originally furnished to the Commission; most of the background has been retouched out or otherwise removed.

The alteration is most easily seen in the space between the man's right arm and his body. From CE 237, it is clear that a light background is visible there in the original photo. In the file copy of Odum DE 1, a small part of this light background is visible through a belt loop, but most of it has been darkened out. The area between the man and the edge of the print is similarly dark, with no background at all visible.

Odum's affidavit establishes that the picture he originally received had some background, which he removed partially but not totally. "In view of the source of this picture, and, in order to remove all background data which might possibly have disclosed the location where the picture was taken, I trimmed off the background." (11H468) He did this "by making a series of straight cuts which reduced the picture to an irregular hexagonal shape." (WR 364) "The straight cuts made were more quickly done than a complete trimming of the silhouette and I considered them as effective for the desired purpose." (11H468)

The enclosures to CD 1048 are described as "copies of the exact photograph, same size and same cutaway," which was shown to Mrs. Oswald by Odum, plus two enlargements. Thus, they should be identical to Odum DE 1, and they in fact do appear identical; they show the same evidence of removal of background. The cover letter bears the handwritten notation "Attachments to CIA 10/22/64." This suggests that the alteration of the enclosures to CD 1048, the file copy of Odum DE 1, and the enclosure to the Odum affidavit was done by the CIA.

There is no reference to this apparent transfer of Commission records to the CIA in that portion of the GA-1-CIA file which was not withheld when you made a copy for me (as requested in my letter of December 26, 1968). Please check the withheld part of that file, especially around October 22, 1964; if you find any documents relating to this matter please describe them to me specifically enough for me to request their release from the relevant agencies. Also, I believe that it would be appropriate for you to ask the FBI to provide you with a replacement copy of the original Odum DE 1 from Bureau files.

Please send me an electrostatic copy of each item on the attached list.

Sincerely yours,

Paul L. Hoch

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